

Opening Remarks

by

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Tonight marks the third in a series of annual conferences initiated by the Pacific Islands Studies Center. The first conference occurred in 1976. These Pacific Islands University of Hawaii systemwide conferences have had as one of their purposes the bringing together of faculty and students from all campuses of the university system. More recently the conferences have encouraged participation of Pacific Islands interested community persons as well as students and teachers from our state public and private secondary schools. Perhaps, there are some of our secondary school friends in the audience tonight. We especially welcome you.

Our first conference in 1976 was an afternoon-early evening affair designed to identify those faculty resources throughout the University of Hawaii system and historical societies who share the Pacific area as a scholarly and teaching interest. While a strong scholarly community has long existed on the Manoa campus, the identification and bringing together of systemwide university faculty, as well as persons representing various historical societies and professional associations concerned with Pacific Islands studies had not been done. That conference was a first-stage attempt at creating a coordinated statewide appraisal of Pacific scholar efforts. That conference expressed a number of desires

--one of which was to have annual conferences of systemwide Pacific Islands interested faculty.

The Pacific Islands Studies Center accepted leadership responsibility for this expressed desire for annual conferences. Following extensive planning and involving of people, the center, in April, 1977, initiated a second conference-workshop. Its theme, Development in the Pacific, focusing on political, economic, social and demographic developments, attracted over eighty faculty members and students. The assembled group at that second conference-workshop set out to determine how to understand the issues of development in the Pacific Islands region in order to apply these to teaching and/or research design and to explore what pattern (s) of development might be best for setting priorities in developmental planning activities in island countries. This second conference continued to share, in an afternoon session, information, future plans and descriptions of on-going programs in and outside the university of value to Pacific Islands interested faculty and students.

Tonight and tomorrow we continue the sharing of resource information and have scheduled topics and speakers that should prove to be interesting.

You might ask at this juncture, why the chronological presentation highlighting the past conferences? My response revolves around our continuing interest in seeking your suggestions and direct help in planning and sponsoring future conferences and in my concern that perhaps we need to establish a Pacific Islands Association, non-profit in nature, made up of interested faculty, students and community leaders whose goals and purposes are central to the fostering of understanding and knowledge

regarding the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Islands region.

Obviously this idea is not particularly original but perhaps the time has come to move it from the back burner to the front. If you have an interest in involving yourself in the establishment of such an association please let us know either by contacting us directly or by writing about such an interest somewhere on the evaluation forms that will be distributed tomorrow.

Based on the requests from last year's conference participants, our conference, this year is longer. Following an interesting evening tonight three sessions are scheduled tomorrow all appropriately centering around the theme: Captain Cook and the Pacific Islands.

Since January 6, 1978, when Governor Ariyoshi in formal ceremonies at the State Capitol proclaimed 1978 as the Captain Cook Hawaii Bicentennial Year, we have considered this conference to be one among the many Bicentennial activities to be held during the 13-month celebration period -- January 18, 1978 through February 14, 1979. For that fact we are most humbly proud.

Now I must sincerely welcome each of you, thank you personally for coming and wish you a most interesting and rewarding conference experience. Mahalo.

Tonight I have the distinct privilege and pleasure of introducing to you two scholars who will share information and activities of importance to persons interested in the Pacific Islands region.

The first individual is known to many of us. He has long demonstrated an effective teaching and scholarly record associated with the Pacific Islands. I am, of course, referring to Professor William J.

Bonk, Chairman of the Anthropology Department, University of Hawaii, Hilo Campus. Dr. Bonk has consistently attended and contributed to our annual Pacific Islands Conference and has once again offered to share with us some important happenings. Dr. Bonk's remarks will center around the "Hawaii Foundation for History and the Humanities Program for the Cook Bicentennial."

It is my pleasure to welcome and present to you, Dr. William J. Bonk, Professor and Chairman, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii at Hilo. Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr. Bonk.

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Those of us interested in the Pacific of 200 years ago invariably become involved with Captain Cook's voyages, eager for every word and shared knowledge about Pacific peoples. And 200 years later, Cook still has that effect of bringing the Pacific together for people -- especially for Pacific Islanders themselves who re-discovered the unity of Polynesia through the Tahitian, Omai whom Cook took with him to New Zealand and Tonga -- sending a wave of excitement through island societies. Thereafter, Pacific Islanders never lost the chance to re-explore the Pacific for themselves and they have been joined by generations of writers, academicians and escapists, all in one way or another taken with the South Seas and its history, as each of us must be to spend a Friday evening at this conference.

On occasion, at conferences like this a feeling emerges that we have these unequalled Pacific Islands resources -- things and people -- here in Hawaii, but we fail to bring them all together. It is particularly appropriate that we are able to welcome the new director of our most valuable Bishop Museum and research center. I think all of us look

to the Bishop Museum for leadership with feelings of pride mingled with feelings of anticipation that so far we have not been able to win for the museum the kind of public support that will make scholarly cooperation, support services, and extension activities a more regular part of a visible Pacific Islands oriented community focused on the museum together with the Pacific activities of a rejuvenated Pacific Islands Program at the University of Hawaii, the Pacific Islands Studies Center, the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council as well as other Pacific Islands interested organizations.

We have already heard, Dr. Creutz, of your enthusiasm for your difficult new position. We view your acceptance of our invitation to speak here tonight as symbolic of your reported eagerness to involve Pacific Islands interested people in the life of the museum. We sense your wish to strike out in new directions, we want to encourage you and wish you well, and we are eager to hear now whatever you have come to relate on "The Role of the Museum in the Pacific."

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, Dr. Edward C. Creutz, Director, Bishop Museum.